

THE POCAHONTAS TIMES

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CALVIN W. PRICE, Editor.

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For something like forty years I have looked up to Bald Knob on Back Allegheny intending to go there and stand on its windwept summit.

Last Saturday I reached there late but under favorable circumstances. It was arranged by Rev. Fred Gray, the botanist.

When I started out I did not know whether there was an article (a literary composition forming a part of a periodical) in it or not.

This summer it has been my good fortune to make a number of trips to the Greenbank district.

Green Bank has the distinction of being the highest municipality in the eastern part of the United States.

Green Bank was around the forks of Deer Creek near where the village of Green Bank stands.

The Indians could not surprise the fort on account of the opening in the forest and it proved a safe retreat during all of those dangerous years.

There is a tradition that on one occasion that a party of hostile Indians besieged this fort and watched it from the hill by the John G. Warwick place and that the Indians sent an arrow from that hill that fell within the stockade.

There is nothing in the world today in the way of human dynamics to equal it.

The site of this fort is in grass but it is not included within the cultivated fields of the fine farms in and about the forks of Deer Creek.

Just across the hayfields in the forks of the State highway and the Cass turnpike is a very symmetrical mound some hundred or more feet high that has every appearance of being that of the mound builders.

Greenbank was the site of two notable engagements during the Civil War.

Allegheny, on top of the main Allegheny, where on December 13, 1861, Gen. Milroy of the Union forces surrounded the winter camp of the Confederates with a great number of troops and was repulsed.

That invitation centered around Prof. Gray, who has been well known to me for many years.

He has been studying nature. I have been starved into that kind of work myself but with this difference in that when I find out some of the secrets of nature I write it out in long hand and have it printed in The Times.

Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.

Years ago I wrote something that seems to apply to this place: Come with me to the mountain height.

We ate a great lunch while we looked. Stared and ate. Such is life. We found the ice cold spring just under the brow.

I learned so much about plants that day that I suffered from mental indigestion. But here is a sample of the kind of conversation that we had.

Here on this wind-swept, barren, blasted top, where the fire warden claims to have read the Pocahontas Times for a whole evening by the flashes of lightning, you are cautioned to speak the truth.

Ans. Yes. Fifty-seven different varieties in West Virginia alone. I have collected others in other states.

Ans. Yes. The bracken is common on this top. The hay-scented is also found here in great abundance.

Ans. Yes. At a point about 4500 or 4600 feet, a spinulose fern ceases, and the dilated fern owns the land with others to the top of the mountain.

Ans. Yes. It is a variety of the snapdragon.

is some jealousy among the people about it. They say that the whole state of Colorado is divided on account of twenty feet difference in the two highest peaks.

From there we went on to the barren spot on Bald Knob where the fire warden lives in the fire season.

The Bald Knob is a sterile tract but not so barren as it appears from a distance.

We could not forbear bringing in great sheaves of the tiger lily and some of you saw the flowers in one of the Marlinton churches Sunday.

The top of Bald Knob is barren for the space of some acres, but immediately to the east and a few feet lower is a bench that is denuded of trees but on which is a thick growth of covering vegetation such as mosses, ground-pine, strawberry vines and the like.

Ans. Yes. It is a variety of the snapdragon.

Ans. From swampy places to the highest elevations.

Ans. It is a bush cranberry. When ripe it is from a light red to a deep red.

Ans. The willow herb. Very rich in honey. See those covered with plant lice, the aphids. They have secreted the honey and those ants are gathering it.

Ans. There is such a berry here. The thorns either entirely absent or merely rudimentary. Probably evolving.

Ans. It is a variety of the snapdragon.

Ans. From swampy places to the highest elevations.

highest elevations. Ques. What about Chest Mountain huckleberries?

Ques. What about the thornless blackberry? Ans. There is such a berry here.

Ques. What is that purple blossom? Ans. The willow herb.

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